[*English*]

Maintenance and Protection of Tracks

6334. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the proper and timely maintenance of tracks in the country and intensive training of railway officials with a view to preventing accidents and ensuring timely running of trains;

(b) whether there are certain sections where chain pulling for ensuring unauthorised stoppage and detention of trains almost at each door step is a regular feature; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to stop this menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Railways have a well defined system of regular track maintenance as also of attention to occasional maintenance needs. The staff in select safety categories, are imparted initial training followed by periodic Refresher Courses and safety camps. Emphasis in these courses is on Safety aspects, technical knowledge and also on motivation about punctuality improvement.

(b) and (c). Sections which are more prone to alarm chain pulling (ACP) have been identified. Railways organise surprise checks in coordination with State Govts. on these sections to apprehend the miscreants. Simultaneously, educative campaign through various media is also undertaken. On badly affected trains, alarm chain apparatus is blanked off.

Penalty of imprisonment upto one year and/or fine upto Rs. 1000/- has been prescribed by the Railway Act, 1989 and a minimum fine of Rs. 500/- for first offence and imprisonment for three months for second of subsequent offence have also been prescribed.

Issue of Licence to Commercial Pilot by Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academi

6335. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether licences issued by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) are at par with the licences issued by flying academies of other airlines in the world;

(b) whether some of the commercial pilot licences issued by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) are endorsed with "not valid for commercial purposes" and "without night endorsement" whereas some are not;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether any assessment about the working of the IGRUA has been conducted in the recent past and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) IGRUA trains pilots for acquiring Commercial Pilot Licence. Such Licences are issued by the Director General of Civil Aviation. They are on par with similar licences issued in other countries.

(b) and (c). The whole matter is being reviewed by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

(d) Yes, Sir. IGRUA has achieved the broad objectives for which it has been established.